

REMARKS

Claim 1-25 and 37-40 are currently pending. Claims 26-36 have been withdrawn from consideration. Applicant believes the Office Action Summary Sheet to be in error with respect to the status of claim 26. Claim 40 is newly presented herein. In the Office Action mailed April 19, 2007, the Examiner objected to the abstract as including the alleged legal phraseology “are disclosed”. Although such phraseology is not specified in MPEP §608.01(b) as being “legal phraseology”, and although Applicant considers the use of the phrase in the Abstract as simply proper grammar, Applicant has nonetheless amended the abstract to resolve that which the Examiner objects to. Accordingly, Applicant believes that the objection to the abstract has been overcome.

The Examiner presented several rejections of the previously presented and pending claims is being anticipated or unpatentable over Simon et al. (USP 5,695,263), Wei (USP 6,419,331), and/or Liuo (USP 5,011,323). Applicant has amended claims 1, 18, and 37 to further define the present invention. Claim 40 is also newly presented herein and is also believed to be patentably distinct over the art of record.

Claim 1 calls for, in part, a number of connectors having interchangeable connector flanges wherein each connector flange and edge rail are constructed to be secured together by an overlapping engagement where no more than two surfaces of the connector flange and edge rail engage one another. Claim 18 further defines the present invention by calling for, in part, wherein the corner components and the edge components are engageable from more than one direction. Claim 37 calls for, in part, wherein each severed end of an edge rail is engageable with a corner connector in a non-interlocking abutting engagement to form a frame assembly wherein each connection between each severed end and corner connector is secured together with a surface fastener that does not pass through at least one of the severed end or the corner connector. Each of the references cited by the Examiner fail to teach, suggest, or disclose one or more of these limitations called for in the claims.

Simon et al. discloses a cabinet for holding electrical and electronic equipment and subassemblies that includes sectional bars 2, 4, 6 that are interconnected by corner

connectors 20 to frame 3. Each corner connector 20 includes three connecting faces 21 having guide elements 24 and though holes 26 for receiving fixing elements or screws 2. Guide elements 24 engage frontal openings of T-grooves 14 which have a rectangular cross-section. That is, as best shown in Fig. 2, each guide element 24 is constructed to cooperatively engage a corresponding T-groove 14 formed in a respective sectional bar 4. Simone et al. teaches a frame connection system wherein more than two surface of the connector flange are engaged with one another. As shown in Fig. 2, at least five (5) surfaces interface between the rail 5 and guide element 24. Furthermore, rail 5 and corner connector 24 are not secured together until fasteners 22 are passed through connector 24 and operatively engaged with a respective rail 4.

Liwo discloses a knockdown cabinet assembly generally similar to that disclosed by Simon et al. As shown in Figs. 1 and 3, corner connectors 1, 100 include projections 4, 11, 101, which are constructed to be slidably received in corresponding channels 21, 201 formed in rail members 2, 200. Projections 4, 11, 101 are generally encircled by the surfaces of the channel 21, 201 in are secured therein with a number of fasteners 32, 300 which pass through respective openings in the rail 23, 202 and engage the corner connector 1, 100.

Somewhat afieid from the disclosure of Simon et al. and Liwo, Wei discloses a frame structure of a playing machine that lacks any corner connectors as called for in the present invention. As shown in Fig 1 thereof, a number of fasteners interconnect a number of rails that include upright posts 1, transverse sides 2, frame sides 3, and a plurality of press plates 4. Wei discloses “a cover 15 is used for covering the top and bottom end faces of the upright posts 1, thereby enhancing the aesthetic quality of the upright post.” C. 2, ll. 54-56. That is, the assembly of Wei lacks any corner connector and simply includes a number of panels that are positionally secured along a length of a number of rails. Wei further discloses that the press plate 4 is used for fixing a glass piece or a plate that includes a first press plate 41, second press plate 42, a third press plate 43, and a fourth press plate 44. The ends of the respective press plates 41-44 define a positioning hole 411 for securing the press plates 41-44 to respective positions relative to upright posts 1 with respect to each positioning member or fastener 5.

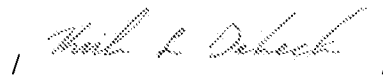
As shown above, each of the claims as amended herein include limitations which are not taught, suggested, or disclosed in the art of record. The art of record discloses enclosure assembly wherein the relative positioning of members is defined by the geometry of the members such that the members only interact in generally one way and interact to essentially fix the relative location of the members prior to the mechanical fixing of the relative locations. Unlike the systems disclosed therein, the present invention is directed to an enclosure system wherein engagement of the respective parts is interchangeable such that the relative orientation of the respective parts does not otherwise fix the position of the corner connectors with respect to the rails such that the parts are engageable from a number of directions and securable in a variety of relative orientations. The generally non-fixed association of the respective components enhances the usability and functionality of the claimed invention by not requiring a user to orient and associate a number of elements to form an enclosure. The art of record fails to teach, suggest, or disclose such a system.

Claim 40 is also newly presented herein and further defines the present invention over the art of record. Even though the Examiner suggests that it is the final product that is examined regardless of the method provided by the Applicant, claim 40 is directed to the present invention and further defines the present invention over the art of record. As indicated above, each of the references cited by the Examiner includes an extraneous fastener member, i.e. a screw, which must be associated to secure the parts of the respective assemblies together. Unlike the prior art, the enclosure of the present invention can be fully assembled by a layperson without the need of extensive machining or utilization of power tools. The prior art simply fails to disclose, teach, or suggest such a system. The subject matter of claim 40 is disclosed at page 8, line 22 of the specification. No new matter has been added. Applicant respectfully requests entry and consideration of the subject matter of claim 40. Furthermore, as claims 26-36 have been withdrawn, no fees are believed payable for entry and consideration of this claim.

For the reasons set forth above, Applicant believes that which is called for in claims 1, 18, and 37 is patentably distinct over the art of record. Accordingly, Applicant believes claims 1, 18, and 37 are in condition for allowance. Applicant believes claims 2-

17, 19-25, and 38-40 are in condition for allowance pursuant to the chain of dependency as depending from an otherwise allowable claim. Although no fees are believed due with this submission, the Office is hereby authorized to charge, or credit, deposit account 50-1170 any fees, or reimbursements, which may be deemed payable. The Examiner is further cordially invited to contact the undersigned to discuss or otherwise resolve any informal matters which may hinder the passage of the above-captioned matter to issuance.

Respectfully submitted,



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Dated: July 17, 2007
Attorney Docket No.: 1546.001
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